Israel in the Last Days (From the Messianic Hour Radio Broadcast)

By Charles Feinberg

Charles Feinberg:

The messianic Hour is on the air. Oh Israel, hear the word of the Lord.

[Musical interlude 00:10-38]

A hearty welcome friends on the broadcast of the messianic hour under the direction of Dr. Charles Lee Feinberg professor of Old Testament at Talbot Theological Seminary. This program aims to foster love for God's ancient people Israel and to spread the truth of salvation in the Messiah for blessing and inspiration. Stay tuned for the next half hour.

[Musical interlude 01:02-02:39]

Martin Luther the great reformer is credited with the following. Interesting story. Two Mountain Goats meet each other on a narrow ledge just wide enough for one of the animals. On the left, there's a sheer cliff on the right a deep lake. The two face each other. What should they do? They cannot back up that would be dangerous. They cannot turn around the ledge is too
narrow. Now if the goats had no more sense than some people they would meet head on and start butting each other till they fell into the lake below. Luther tells us that goats have better sense than this. One lies down on the trail and lets the other literally walk over him and then both are safe. They must be willing at least one of them to lie down humbly and let the other pass over him. If they were like some people, they would argue about who should lie down and who should walk over. But evidently, goat sense is commonsense friends. Is there any need to make an application to ourselves?

[Musical interlude 03:58-05:52]

Solomon learned that life without God is empty. Says King Solomon. After failing to find satisfaction in knowledge, he turned to sensualism but again was disappointed. He then tried a cultural life dedicated to beautiful buildings lovely farms priceless art treasures and magnificent musical productions of these he says my heart rejoiced in all my labor. However, he discovered that even these noble pursuits though producing a measure of pleasure did not meet the deepest needs of his soul. Solomon's experience has been repeated many many times by others in the course of history. In 1967, writing from behind prison bars a man by the name of Clay Lawrence declared that he had found out how right Solomon was. He recalled the time when he had a lovely home with his wife and two children. An annual salary of thirty four thousand dollars. But he says life became Tedious, it lacked savor everything seemed tireless.

His restlessness and his lack of satisfaction led him into a life of crime, which netted him and his associates more than three million dollars. For a time the excitement of this life gave him
real pleasure. But he was soon apprehended and sent to prison. There he became burdened with deep feelings of guilt. And thank God, he was finally introduced to Jesus Christ. By faith, he now enjoys true peace. And this is what he says. I wouldn't exchange what is within me today for ten times three million dollars.

[Musical interlude: 07:53-09:00]

Friends it is not important what I say or what you say but what says the scripture here. The old testament prophecy as we have it in Psalm ninety five verses seven to 11 for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand today if you will hear his voice hardened not to your heart as in the provocation and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness when your fathers tempted me proved me and saw my work. Forty years long was I grieved with this generation and said it is a people that do err in their heart and they have not known my ways unto whom I swear in my wrath that they should not enter into my rest. Now here is the New Testament fulfilment in the Messiah in Hebrews chapter 3 verses seven to twelve.

Wherefore as the Holy Ghost said today if you will hear his voice harden not your hearts as in the provocation in the day of temptation in the wilderness when your father's tempted me proved me and saw my works forty years wherefore I was grieved with that generation and said they do always earlier in their heart and they have not known my ways so I swear in my wrath they shall not enter into my rest. Take heed brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God.
Our Gracious God and our Father thy God of Abraham and of Isaac and of Jacob, How well we've learned. No matter how long we've lived in this earth. How well we've already learned the deceitfulness the perverseness of our hearts. Truly it's a heart that would provoke thee to wrath. As Israel did. They tempted. They tried thee, they tested thee. They provoked thee. Onto judgment upon them and Lord they are not one whit different from us and so we pray Our Father. That as once we recognize by conviction of thy spirit that there is no good thing in us. There is no means whereby we can be just in thy sight. There's no way whereby we can find thy favor on our own terms by our own acts or endeavors. Lord having once learned this may we be deeply assured that thou hast done something about it in love and infinite grace and compassion in mercy and in loving kindness. Specifically thou has sent thine only begotten son well-beloved of thy heart.

The all sufficient one. God the Son. Lord Jesus Christ the messiah of Israel. The king of Israel the savior of the world thou hast sent him to be our redeemer. To give us a new life a new nature a new disposition a new outlook a new desire to serve thee acceptably. Oh how wonderful will glory be when we are in thy presence and in his and in the presence of the redeemed, once for all redeemed from the very presence of sin. Lord. May hearts that are hearing today. Allow thy spirit. To give them this truth and may they receive this truth and rejoice in it we pray in Jesus' name amen.
An old cobbler was once visited by a preacher who expressed pity for him because he filled such a menial position. The man rebuked the pastor by pointing to a motto over his bench that read this way. A shoemaker by the grace of God that dignified all his work for he did everything as unto the Lord. Friends got lots to each of his children some work to which he expects them to be faithful.

Friends we want to continue today on the theme Israel in the last days the Olivet discourse in the third portion. Matthew 24 29 to 35 the glorious coming of the Messiah. Up to this point in the prophetic address of the Messiah, he had been dealing with the background or the events that lead up to that wonderful event in history. His return in glory and power. He's answering the question of the disciples as to the nature of the sign of his coming. And at the end of the age. Now we come to one of the important climaxes in this important section of scripture. It follows immediately upon the events of the great tribulation, which have just been described by the Lord Jesus the Messiah. We read this following account, but immediately after the tribulation of those days, the sun shall be darkened and the moon shall not give her light. And the star shall fall from heaven and the powers of the heaven shall be shaken and then shall appear the sign of the son of man in heaven and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn and they shall see the son of man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory and he shall send
forth his angels with a great sound of a trumpet and they shall gather together his electrum the four winds from one end of heaven to the other.

Now from the fig tree learn her parable when her branch is now become tender and put forth its leaves. You know that summer is nigh. Even so. Also when you see all these things know you that he is nigh. Even at the doors. Verily I say to you this generation shall not pass away till all these things be accomplished. Heaven and earth shall pass away but my words shall not pass away. The significant events spoken of by our Lord are in the first place the return of the Son of Man when the Lord says so clearly immediately after the tribulation of those days we have a notation of time that is as clear as it is definite. The visible glorious coming of Messiah is placed immediately after the Great Tribulation. At that time the sun moon and stars will no longer give their light and in fact what need is there of them when he comes who outshines them all. The prophet Joel in speaking of these same events centuries long passed had written the sun and the moon are darkened and the stars withdrew their shining the shaking of the powers of heaven probably has reference to the heavenly hosts or the angels. There are going to be movements among them as those of a ship caused by the action of the mighty waves of the sea.

Then in exact sequence will take place that for which the church all Israel and in fact the world have waited. The personal visible glorious appearing of messiah to the earth. The sign of the son of man in heaven has been understood by some interpreters as the sign of the Cross in heaven. Some think it will be the Shekinah cloud. And this has much to commend it in view of the prophecy of Ezekiel in the forty third chapter. Yet others explain it as the shining glory of the appearance of Messiah as distinct from his personal manifestation with many others we believe that the sign will be Messiah the Lord Jesus Christ himself. This coming will be the signal for the spontaneous outburst of mourning on the part of all the tribes of the earth. The reference is
probably not to all the nations still unbelieving but to the national mourning of Israel for the tribes will be able to see him from all continents. The greater Joseph and his brethren are now dramatically face-to-face. It will be a time of fear and trembling and terror for the unbelieving he comes to judge the disobedient. It's the Son of Man judicially and they will see him. When he left Earth centuries ago, he said he would return in like manner as they have seen him go into heaven. This coming will not be characterized by weakness by humiliation by ridicule by scorn. It will be attended by power and great glory. The second coming is as different as possible from the first coming.

A Christian woman was once speaking to a Christian worker about the assurance and confidence of her safety in the Savior and she wound up by saying I have taken a single ticket to glory and I do not intend to come back and to this the man of God rightly said my dear friend you're going to miss a lot. I've taken a return ticket for I'm not only going to meet Christ in glory but I'm coming back with him in power and great glory to the earth. What a coming that will be. No wonder Zachariah prays, and all thy holy ones with thee. Next in the order of events will be in the second place the regathering of Israel. It's eminently true that before our very eyes, the long scattered nation of Israel is being regathered to the land of their fathers and within the last ten months been our privilege to be in that land of promise to see that scattered nation regathered three times in the last ten months and oh, it continues on this regathering. This is in fulfillment of another prophecy and distinct from what we read here now. There will also be a divine side to this regathering. How so. Well the Lord will send forth his angels with a great sound of a trumpet to regather them. His chosen from the four winds of heaven it's the angels not human agency that gather Israel home. Finally displaying that tremendous boundless love of God. Jeremiah expressed it in this beautiful way.
Therefore behold the day is come said the Lord that it shall no more be said as the Lord lives that brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt. But as the Lord lives that brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north and from all the countries whither he had driven them. And I will bring them again into their land that I gave unto their fathers. Behold I will send for many fishers said the Lord and they shall fish them up. And afterward I will send for many hunters and they shall hunt them from every mountain, from every hill, and out of the cliffs of the rocks. His coming will be with his mighty angels and they will perform this important service at the command of the Lord. Now the greater part of Israel will still be scattered in that day throughout the world as now the elect are undoubtedly the chosen nation Israel as already stated in this chapter. What an hour of deliverance and victory for the believing remnant that's going to be, just as the events at Sinai were heralded by the trumpet, Exodus 19, and just as the removal of the church from the earth will also be heralded with a trumpet of God, first Thessalonians 4:16 or First Corinthians 15:52. So it will be at the visible coming of Messiah to Israel.

There will be the heralding by a trumpet. It's been beautifully put this way. East and west and south and north speed each glorying Angel forth gathering in with glittering wing Zion's saints to Zions King. What a contrast with the gathering in verse 28 where judgment falls on corruption. Finally the Lord sets forth the parable of the fig tree in order to indicate when these things are about to occur. The Lord uses the figure of the fig tree. All the trees are mentioned in Luke 21. Our Lord is saying that the signs just pointed out will as clearly warn of the approach of the Lord as the budding of the fig tree in spring indicates that the summer is at hand. The Peculiarity, the strange thing about the fig tree is this that the blossom comes before the leaf. In
other words, the fruit leads on the leaves. The development is sudden. It's a figure from the realm of nature like the almond tree in Jeremiah one which is the first to blossom in Palestine.

When the sap has risen in the fig tree then the branch dry, hard, and unyielding in winter becomes soft and moist just as these signs are unmistakable in the natural realm so those just mentioned in this passage of Scripture are certain in the spiritual in the prophetic sphere. They point to one fact The Lord is nigh, even at the doors. In order to show the shortness of the time required for all these events to transpire, the Lord says that the people of Israel living at the end of the Jewish age will see the completion of these things in other words the same generation that sees the beginning of these events will see the end. The emphasis again is on the suddenness of the end. How sure can they and we be of the occurrence of these events. If these predictions are compared with Heaven and Earth, which appear to be the most stable and lasting of the things about us these words will excel them in stability in assurance and in permanence, in duration. Christ's words would not pass away though heaven and earth may and will do so. This is the strongest possible statement of the divine authority by which the Messiah spoke to them. His words were not spoken just to terrify but they warned of real awful coming events.

No mere man could make such a claim. How lasting and eternal are Christ's words. A woman whose husband was a confirmed drunkard led a most miserable life until one day a coal porter came to her poor home and gave her a Bible. She found much comfort in reading it and soon she came to value that Bible above everything else. Her husband sneered and railed at her about it. One day when he came home half-drunk, he found her sitting reading the Bible. He snatched it from her threw it into the stove and set fire to it. Now we'll see. He said sneeringly. Now we'll see what will be left of your new religion. The next day he opened the door of the stove and took the fire tongs to start up the cinders.
He thought that's all that would be left of the book when his eyes fell on the words heaven and earth shall pass away. But my words shall not pass away. Having been thrown in closed, some pages of the book were partly preserved. These words stood out clear and distinct. They were like a thunderbolt to the man. He stood convicted and awe stricken. Soon after, he was converted and lived for God. Dear Jewish listener, dear friend the better part of wisdom is to hear the everlasting words of Messiah turn to him now for refuge then a place will be assured you among the throng who come with him when he returns with the angels in power great glory and majesty unspeakable to put it off is to court eternal disaster certain doom now believe it now is the day of salvation. Our father in heaven bless the broadcast in Music and in message. May many hearts be turned unto righteousness. In Jesus' name, we pray with Thanksgiving. Amen.

[Musical interlude from 25:34-26:32]

Friends since the beginning of the messianic hour. Now in its 21st year of broadcast ministry the dedicated purpose the declared vision have been to reach our Jewish friends with the truth concerning God's son the Lord Jesus Christ. We have found radio a most advantageous tool to reach those who would not otherwise attend any gospel service. Experience has shown that radio is one of the most inexpensive means of touching large segments of any population in any part of the world. In order to make possible these broadcasts to maintain their outreach our staff members themselves have given generously. To carry the heavy load, they do need your help. Every gift received without deduction goes directly toward the specific Ministry of reaching the Jewish people with the news of the Messiah our Savior.
We would greatly appreciate your daily remembrance of this work in your faithful prayers. That is the Lord speaks to your heart as you're in prayer invest in reaching the Jewish people for Christ. Our mailing address the messianic our post office box 1102 Whittier California zip code 90609. That's box 1102 Whittier California 90609. It would be a great encouragement for all of us to hear from you. Our soloist today was Dave Efland Tim Harvey at the organ. Now this is Charles Feinberg thanking you for listening for your faithful prayers for your zealous witness on behalf of the lost sheep of the House of Israel. Listen again next week with your Jewish friends your Jewish neighbors and all your friends at the same time for the messianic hour.

[Musical Conclusion 28:18-29:59]